



**Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting
February 17, 2023 - Noon
Our Place Drop-In Center**

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Citizen's Advisory Committee, and the Department of Criminal Justice Services exist to improve the safety of the citizens of Lewis and Clark County and ensure the equitable and efficient treatment of defendants, offenders, and victims.

1. Call to Order & Reading of the Mission

Carolyn Belling, Vice-Chair, Called the meeting to order.
The Mission Statement was read by Teresa Charlton.

2. Introductions

Members present: Carolyn Belling, Teresa Charlton, Theresa Ortega

Members absent: Tom Cordingley, Tina Eblin, Karen English, Moffie Funk, Jen Gursky, John Lytle, Mike Mahoney, Joanne Romasko

Staff in attendance: Jillian Danesi, Bri Lake, Kellie McBride, & Alexia Clark

Others in attendance: Detention Center Captain Brad Bragg, CJCC Chair Judge Menahan, Dawn (Intern at Hope Center Ministries), Matt Elsaesser

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Carol

- January 20, 2023: No quorum, skipped.

4. Presentation and Tour from Good Samaritan Ministries – Theresa Ortega

Theresa described the purpose of Our Place as well as plans for future. Theresa stressed that Our Place is intended to create a safe space for people in recovery or treatment and to provide mental health services. Our Place does not allow individuals who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol to stay, due to both funding and because it serves as a trigger to those individuals who are trying to remain sober. To keep these populations separate and be able to provide services to both, Theresa is currently looking for a new location for Our Place. The current Our Place facility would become an adult community center with a low barrier of entry, to better serve the population of who are not in treatment or not ready for treatment but need assistance in other areas. Kellie spoke in support of Our Place and to the CJS clients who have benefited from Our Place. At the end of meeting, Theresa gave a tour of the facilities.

5. Hope Center Ministries Overview – Carolyn Belling

Carolyn provided a detailed description of the Hope Center Ministries program. Hope Center Ministries utilizes a structured, faith-based program. The program is 1 year long, with 3 phases, which includes getting the individual physical healthy, assistance in signing up for benefits and identification cards, vocational training through partnerships with businesses in the community.

The Hope Center utilizes The Hope Center uses a disciplinary point system, with low to no tolerance for violence or drugs. Residents submit to random drug screening and cameras are used on site and in Hope Center vehicles.

The Hope Center is narcotics-free and does not allow any narcotics, including suboxone, citing safety concerns. Carolyn voiced concerns about the current draft of SB 94, which would prevent Judges from being able to refer individuals to any sober living homes that are not certified by the National Alliance of Recovery Residence (NARR) by October 2023. The concern is that, because NARR certification requires compliance with doctor prescribed treatment plans, which may include suboxone, Hope Centers would not be able to become NARR certified, leading to delays in treatment, as well as loss of services. Matt spoke in support of the Hope program and shared concern with the current draft of SB 94. Judge Menahan emphasized that judges are prohibited from commenting on any bills, in either support of or opposition to. Kellie asked if there was a Licensed Addiction Counselor on site. Carolyn responded that while there are no doctors or LAC on staff, they will drive participants to all court-ordered appointments.

6. Update on MAT Bridges Program – Kellie McBride

Skipped due to time.

7. Opioid Settlement Funds – Kellie McBride

Skipped due to time.

8. CJS Updates – Kellie McBride

Kellie brought the current bill draft of LC1230 which would add “one misdemeanor probation officer” to the Montana Public Safety Officer Standards and Training Council (POST). Kellie stated that she would like the bill to be amended to include “one misdemeanor probation/pretrial services officer” per ARM 23.13.206.

9. Non-Agenda Items

No discussion on non-agenda items.

10. Public Comment

No public comment.

11. Next Meeting – March 17, 2023

12. Adjourn